

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/IB:ELLWOOD M. RABENOLD

APPROVED BY S/S - SAMUEL R. GAMMON

S - MR. EAGLEBURGER

EUR -- WALTER J. STOESSEL, JR.

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R 171550Z OCT 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LISBON

S E C R E T STATE 205620

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, PO, IS

SUBJECT: RESUPPLY FLIGHTS THROUGH LAJES TO ISRAEL

1. SECRETARY RECEIVED PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR AFTERNOON OCTOBER 15 TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR PORTUGUESE COOPERATION IN MAKING LAJES BASE AVAILABLE FOR URGENTLY NEEDED RESUPPLY FLIGHTS TO ISRAEL. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT WHILE IT IS HARD FOR US TO MAKE COMMITMENTS AT THIS TIME, THE US WOULD NOT FORGET PORTUGAL'S COOPERATION. HE HAD MENTIONED TO THE PRESIDENT THIS MORNING THAT WE WERE UNDER AN OBLIGATION TO PORTUGAL.

2. AMBASSADOR THEMIDO REPEATED REMARKS HE HAD MADE EARLIER TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY STOESSEL REGARDING PORTUGUESE GRIEVANCES AGAINST US POLICIES. HE COMMENTED THAT THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT WAS PROUD OF THE RESULTS THAT IT HAD ACHIEVED IN PORTUGUESE AFRICA, AND THAT THERE WERE MANY ASPECTS OF PORTUGUESE POLICY THAT THE UNITED STATES COULD SUPPORT. PAST US POLICY HAD BEEN UNFRIENDLY. NEVERTHELESS PORTUGAL HAD SAID YES TO THE REQUEST TO USE LAJES KNOWING HOW SERIOUS THE CONSEQUENCES COULD BE.

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3. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT HE WOULD EXAMINE THE PORTUGUESE PROPOSALS (PORTUGUESE MEMORANDUM) WITH CARE, AND THAT THE GOP HAS A GREATER CLAIM ON OUR UNDERSTANDING THAN IT DID LAST WEEK. MR. STOESSEL WOULD GET BACK TO THE AMBASSADOR

ON DETAILS. IN RESPONSE TO THE SECRETARY'S COMMENT THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE FOREIGN MINISTER IN LISBON, THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT HE WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE AN INVITATION TO GO. THE SECRETARY PROMISED TO FOLLOW THE PROGRESS OF THE AZORES BASE NEGOTIATIONS CLOSELY.

4. THE SECRETARY BRIEFED THE AMBASSADOR ON THE CURRENT SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND SAID THAT THANKS TO THE ACTION OF THE PORTUGUESE, THE STALEMATE MIGHT BE BROKEN WHICH COULD RESULT IN CEASE FIRE AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PEACE WHICH SHOULD BE AS IMPORTANT TO PORTUGAL AS TO OURSELVES.

5. MEMCOM WILL FOLLOW. KISSINGER

SECRET

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 11 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LANDING RIGHTS, FLIGHT CLEARANCES, MILITARY BASES, AMBASSADORS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: worrelsw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE205620
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/IB:ELLWOOD M. RABENOLD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P750020-0160
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731066/abqcejcj.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: worrelsw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Sep-2001 by rowellE0>; APPROVED <05 MAR 2002 by worrelsw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RESUPPLY FLIGHTS THROUGH LAJES TO ISRAEL
TAGS: MARR, MASS, US, IS, PO, (THEMIDO)
To: LISBON
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005